

A summary from the WeCAN Meeting held at Westfield City Services Center on March 25, 2014 at 7:00 pm.

Disclaimer: I hope you will find these notes helpful. They are not a complete representation of the meeting, but rather the highlights of topics discussed. Feel free to contact Zach or Erin at the Westfield City Services Center: communications@westfield.in.gov or (317) 804-3013 if you have any questions.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Jim Ake opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance introduced themselves.

II. CITY UPDATES WITH MAYOR COOK

Mayor Cook discussed Grand Park events and construction.

Also discussed the utility sale. Clarified that rate structure in Indianapolis is not the rate structure used in Westfield. Westfield will use the rate structure adopted by the Council.

Customer service will be monitored by us.

III. PLANT-A-ROW

Jo Ann Weiker presented information on the Plant-a-Row program. HOA's can get the word out through associations. Encouraged residents to get involved by simply planting an extra row to help share with the underemployed and unemployed who are suffering/malnourished. Plant-A-Row collects food at Ameriana Bank on Saturdays. Would like to see every subdivision get their own drop-off site. Encouraged people to get in touch with any questions or to discuss ideas for their particular subdivision.

IV. UTILITY TRANSFER – Jim Ake walked through the utility process and displayed the insert that will be included in the next issue of YCM. Also available on website and through social media.

V. Jim Ake made announcement about historic architecture/photography exhibit coming to Westfield City Hall on Saturday April 12, 6-7 p.m. at City Hall. Free event with food.

VI. BACKYARD CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Claire Lane from the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District gave an overview of BYC program. Detailed pond edge enhancement, wildlife habitats, rain gardens, importance from stormwater credits. Do individual site visits to assist homeowners decide what they need to do for their particular property. Certain projects are eligible for cost-share assistance: fund up to 50% of a project cost (Max of \$1,000). **Deadline for Spring program is April 16th**. BYC also creates articles for newsletters, community newspapers and also speaks at HOA and community meetings. Also do workshops, provide info on contractors and vendors, offer testing options for soil and water. A discussion occurred regarding working requirements into development agreements for setting aside conservation measures in new developments.

VII. SPRING MILL STATION

Representatives of the Spring Mill Station group presented concept plan for development in their neighborhood. Jeanine Fortier opened presentation. Emphasized pedestrian connectivity for safety, and buffer for commercial development. Envisioned identity for neighborhood, hub for activity and branding for the planning area. Chris Bluto discussed need to define what will happen to neighborhood, as opposed to waiting for it to happen to them. Detailed land use preferences, which included both commercial, residential and other things that will bring the families and neighborhoods together. Accordance with design and scale, so that individual pieces will fit together in a cohesive fashion. Promoting getting to places without getting in your car. Mark Christoffersen discussed thematic designs, specifically that there was a desire for a railroad theme. Hope that developers incorporate thematic approach as project moves forward. Want it to have a timeless feel, but also a high architecture feel as well. Chris Bluto walked audience through the two examples of design renderings that the group created. Noted that these are only examples, not exclusive options. Ryan Clark discussed public input process and meeting with developers, as well as policy recommendations that the Spring Mill Station group came up with.

VIII. NEXTDOOR

Scott Jordan and Aaron Sherrick presented information on Nextdoor. Citizen-driven effort to connect with neighbors. Approved by HOA as the official social network for the Countryside. Organized block captains to help get people signed up. Aaron also discussed what kinds of uses Nextdoor can be used for, including local businesses and communicating with other neighbors.

Scott Jordan thanked Aaron Sherrick for his dedication acting as a conduit for getting information out to Countryside from the Police Department, and for helping get other neighborhoods set up with the site. Discussed intention of the police department to use Nextdoor as a way to communicate with neighborhoods. Clarified that the PD can't see conversations inside the neighborhood. It is not a police site, nor is it monitored by the police. In three weeks, almost a thousand residents and doubled the number of neighborhoods since launch of PD entry to Nextdoor. Allows the PD to communicate in a focused manner with residents regarding crime, general information or urgent alerts. Goal is to keep residents informed about what is going on in their neighborhood. Also help educate citizens about how to report a crime, how to request a safety check and approved list of solicitors in the city. Urgent alerts include crimes in progress, disasters and safety concerns. Will use urgent alerts very sparingly. Nextdoor is not intended to be a place to report crimes, but is a way to connect with neighborhoods.

Jim Ake adjourned the meeting at 8:45.

The next WeCAN meeting is scheduled for April 29 at 7:00 p.m.

If you have any topic suggestions or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at communications@westfield.in.gov.